Cellular phones purchased by foreign nationals

727. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS
AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of foreign nationals have reportedly bought cellular connections in Kolkata from the service provider without furnishing their local contact addresses or foreign identity proof to Government;

(b) whether this constitutes a national security breach;

(c) whether Government have impressed upon the cellular service' provider the serious security implications arising from this breach; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) It has come to the notice of the Government that one of the mobile service providers has given mobile connections to some of the foreign nationals without proper verification of the *bona fides* of the applicants.

(b) This amounts to non-fulfilment of terms and conditions of licence agreement and instructions issued from time to time.

(c) and (d) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has issued instructions from time to time to all cellular mobile service providers impressing upon them the need for verification of addresses of all applicants (including foreign nationals) before providing cellular mobile telephone connections to them.

Funds allocated for electronic telephone exchanges in U.P.

728. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allotted for installation of electronic telephone exchanges in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the year 2003-04;

(b) the new electronic telephone exchanges set up, so far, during this period; and

(c) the details of such telephone exchanges proposed to be set up in the different parts of the country during the year 2004-05?